

Wisconsin's 2012 ECAC Agenda in National Context

Wisconsin Governor's Early Care and Education Advisory Council

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What is the status of early childhood advisory councils nationally?

Councils Around the Country

- ❑ **State councils were required by the 2007 reauthorization of Head Start.**
 - While some states had councils prior to that law, many states created councils in the wake of the 2007 federal legislation.
 - In 2010, 45 councils - including Wisconsin's - were awarded startup grants by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
 - At this time only two states do not appear to have operating councils (Indiana and South Dakota).
- ❑ **The quality of implementation has varied across states.**
 - In some states, the Councils are seen as administering a federal grant and nothing more.
 - But in other states, Councils are viewed as potential engines of meaningful change.
 - And in other states, the Council falls at neither of those extremes or has a role that is not yet fully established.

Wisconsin's 2011 Annual Report

Wisconsin's Focus for 2012

- ❑ **Wisconsin has identified five areas of focus for 2012:**
 - Comprehensive Screening and Assessment System
 - Longitudinal Data System
 - Public-Private Funding Structure
 - Supporting Families and Community Partnerships
 - Cross-Sector Professional Development
- ❑ **These are all topics that other state advisory councils are also working on.**
 - This presentation will provide some national context for Wisconsin's work.

Key sources: "State Early Childhood Advisory Councils: An Overview of Implementation Across the States," National Governors Association Issue Brief, Amanda Szekely, December 2011; "Early Childhood Advisory Councils and the Cross-Oval Connection: What Have We Learned?" Ngozi Onunaku, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, November 9, 2011.

Comprehensive Screening & Assessment

- ❑ Wisconsin is seeking to develop cross-sector approaches to comprehensive screening and assessment (including kindergarten entry assessment), linked to longitudinal data. New information yielded from screening will be used to plan new policies, programs, and services.
 - Assessment was generally not a major focus of state advisory council grants.
- ❑ **Key things to consider:**
 - Will there soon be tools that can be borrowed from other states?
 - How will the data system be used to ensure that screening and assessment leads to follow-up?
 - How strong is the capacity needed to do follow-up?

Longitudinal Data System

- ❑ **Wisconsin will be designing a multi-agency data system that can answer key policy and practice questions.**
 - Almost every state with a state advisory council grant has identified data systems as a key focus.
- ❑ **Key things to consider:**
 - What are the policy and practice questions that we need to answer in order to change our behavior?
 - What does the field need to use data effectively to improve child outcomes?
 - How can Wisconsin build momentum coming out of its Data Roundtable tomorrow?

Public-Private Funding Structure

- ❑ **Wisconsin will seek to establish a Public Private Board to leverage resources and engage communities.**
- ❑ **Key things to consider:**
 - What will the Board be expected to accomplish?
 - How will the Board fit with other funders in the Wisconsin context, to encourage rather than discourage investment and engagement?
 - Will the Board's role be to fund ongoing projects, or one-time work?
 - How will funding be sustained?

Supporting Families and Community Partnerships

- ❑ Wisconsin will develop a comprehensive training and technical assistance plans for home visiting, focus prevention programs on three key outcomes (reducing child abuse/neglect, improving health, and improving school readiness), and improve connections between children in the child welfare system and high quality early education.
 - More than 30 states are focused on family engagement in their state advisory council grants
- ❑ **Key things to consider:**
 - How will home visiting be linked to later interventions (both design and transition planning)?
 - How will the assessment and data systems work support these efforts (including achieving the desired outcomes)?

Cross-Sector Professional Development

- ❑ **Wisconsin is developing comprehensive cross-sector professional development based on aligned standards.**
 - Most states with state advisory council grants are working to improve professional development
- ❑ **Key things to consider:**
 - How will workforce competencies be updated to improve alignment with readiness for success in kindergarten, and how will the professional development reflect that?
 - How can a common framework support professional development that is aligned horizontally (across programs serving the same age span) and vertically (across age spans)? And how can that professional development be delivered with consistently high quality?

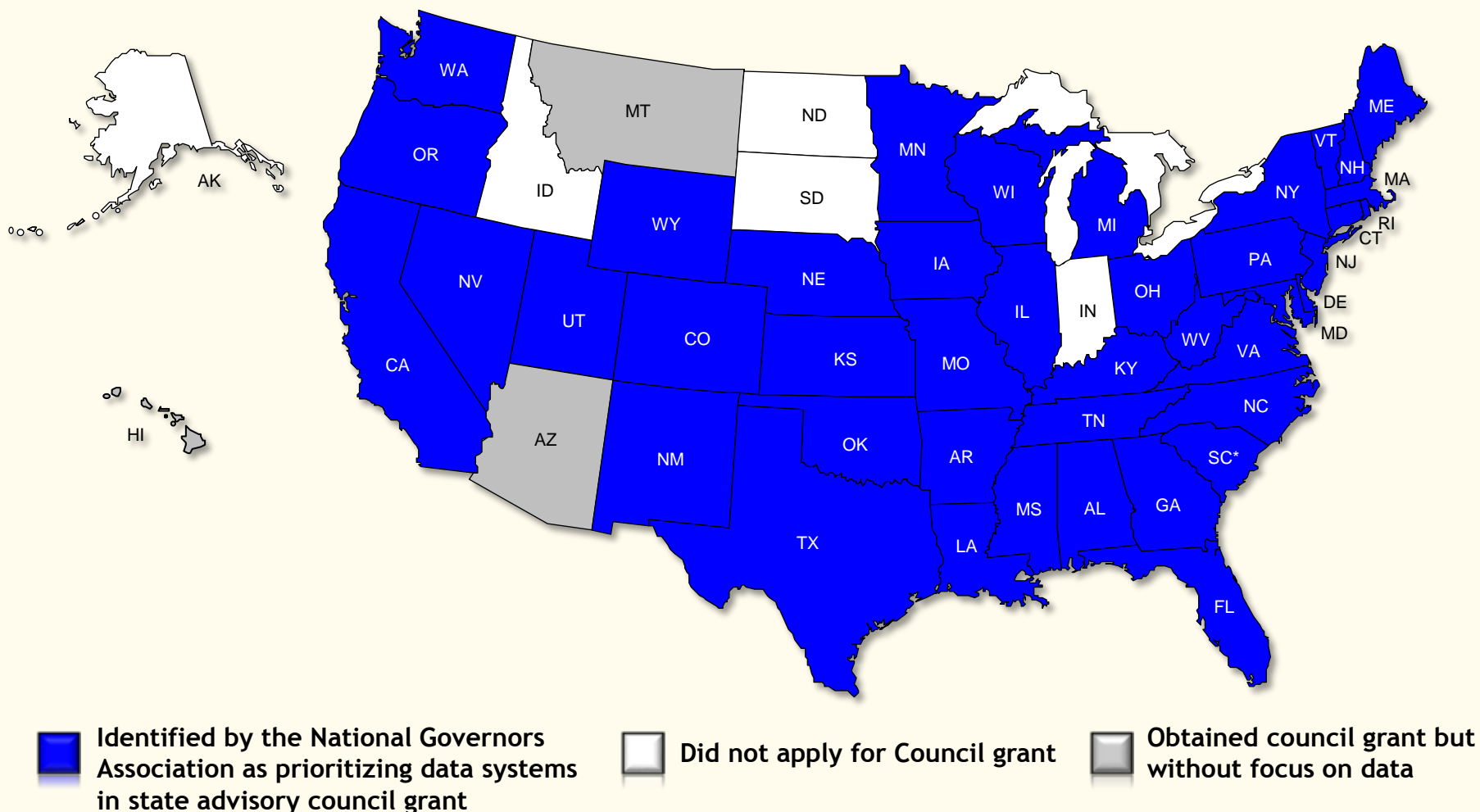
Wisconsin's Data Roundtable

Why have a coordinated data system?

- ❑ The end goal is to improve child outcomes -- in part through better access to high-quality service -- and data is an essential tool in achieving that goal.
- ❑ A coordinated data system should provide information that leads to changes in policy and practice that improve child outcomes.
 - We want data so that we can do things differently - and better. Data plays an essential role in any continuous improvement cycle.
 - In the words of the Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care: "Ultimately, the measure of a state data system is not what it collects but what it produces."
- ❑ As noted earlier, many states are using state advisory council grants for data system design.

Using Council Grants for Data

Many states around the country are using council grants for data system design



*South Carolina returned a portion of its state advisory council grant.

Wisconsin Data Roundtable

- ❑ **Tomorrow Wisconsin will hold a data roundtable focused on early childhood data.**
- ❑ **Key outcomes of the roundtable will include:**
 - Building on the five "Key Questions" the state has identified, with more detailed questions the system should be able to answer.
 - Building stakeholder understanding of the importance of a linked data system.
 - Highlighting ways in which states are using data.
 - Discussing how the actual linkages needed for the system will be developed.
 - Stepping up the conversation about how the field can use data effectively.

Taking Action

Next Steps

- ☐ What action steps are most likely to have an immediate impact - and where are places where waiting might be the right approach?
- ☐ Are there policy areas where Wisconsin is interested in pursuing a multi-state strategy?
- ☐ How can the next round of the Early Learning Challenge support Wisconsin's efforts?

Questions? Follow-up?

- ❑ If you have any questions about this presentation contact:
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